ViVa – Medical Resident Agreement

The Victoria Vanuatu Physicians Project (hereafter referred to as "ViVa") has been providing medical care to the people of Tanna Island and TAFEA province in southern Vanuatu since 1991. Generally, the ViVa Doctor comes from southern Vancouver Island and contracts for a six-month term on Tanna. The ViVa Doctor is employed by the government of Vanuatu, and resides and works primarily at Lenakel Hospital on Tanna. Their presence on Tanna offers a unique opportunity to Medical Residents from "First World" medical programs (Residents) to train in Tropical Medicine in a third-world facility under the guidance of a Canadian doctor.

In signing and submitting this form the Resident agrees to the following terms:

1) Any Resident considering going to Tanna, Vanuatu, must meet with and have agreement from the ViVa Doctor who will be hosting them on Tanna. This will require planning the elective at least six months in advance of the travel date.

2) The timing and duration of any Resident visit to Tanna must be negotiated with the ViVa Doctor in advance. It will be advantageous to both parties if the Resident arrives after the ViVa Doctor has been on Tanna for 6 weeks and leaves before the ViVa Doctor enters his/her last month on Tanna (mid-March to end of June, and mid-September to end of December). Four weeks is an appropriate visit length

3) ViVa assumes no liability for the health or safety of the Resident, and the Resident should ensure they are aware of the health and safety risks on Tanna and take appropriate precautions. Poor infrastructure makes the consequences of natural disasters potentially catastrophic. Medical travel insurance, including coverage for medical evacuation is strongly recommended.

4) All travel costs and arrangements as well as travel accommodation are the responsibility of the Resident.

5) Accommodation and meals on Tanna are the Resident's responsibility although the ViVa Doctor may be able to help guide the Resident and arrange accommodation at a guesthouse on the hospital grounds. If there is room available in the Doctor's house or Doctor's Guest House for the resident, the resident may be expected to pay a small daily charge (approximately 750 Vatu or CAN $8) to cover expenses. In addition, laundry, shopping, and travel on Tanna will be the responsibility of the Resident. Residents should expect standards of travel, accommodation, sanitation, and hygiene in keeping with a third-world country.

6) ViVa is unable to guarantee any set quota of Residents who can come to Tanna.

7) Teaching demands are at the discretion of the ViVa Doctor on Tanna at the time the Resident visits. The ViVa Doctor will keep the safety and well being of his/her patients paramount. Resident procedures and skill-learning are secondary to this.

8) There is no prescribed set of illnesses or procedures any Resident may see, as this is highly variable and unpredictable. Residents should become acquainted with the diagnosis (especially the symptoms and physical signs) and management of: tuberculosis, malaria, pneumonia, meningitis, typhoid, malnutrition, burns, obstetrical emergencies, and perinatal complications, prior to arriving on Tanna. There are only very basic lab tests, microbiological stains, x-ray, and ultrasound available. The supply of water, electricity, and oxygen is unreliable.

9) The grading and performance evaluation process by the ViVa Doctor will be in keeping with evaluation of an elective, and the Resident will also be required to evaluate the experience.

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10) Residents should not drive the ViVa Doctor's truck except in emergencies. Similarly, the ViVa computer may be shared with the Resident at the Doctor's discretion. There is only very slow and unreliable internet access. The few shops on Tanna use cash only. There is a bank but no bank machines on Tanna.

11) Exclusion of Liability and Assumption of Risk: As a condition of acceptance for an elective on Tanna, the Resident assumes all risk of personal injury, death, or property loss resulting from any cause whatsoever including, but not limited to:

a) swimming, snorkeling, boating, hiking, exploration of the active volcano, and other recreational activities and environmental hazards while on Tanna;

b) travel in the Doctor's truck or any other vehicle on the island of Tanna; and

c) negligence, breach of contract, or breach of statutory duty of care on the part of ViVa and its employees, agents, directors, volunteers, representatives, sponsors, successors and assigns.

Signed this ___ day of _____, 20___.

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ViVa preceptor Resident

(Revised Mar 2011)